

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/592,915

Applicant(s)

KIKUI, HIDEKI

Examiner

Art Unit

Walter F. Briney III

2615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 17 April 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 7, 11, 15, 16, 18, 20 and 22.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

1. **Claims 1, 7, 11, 15, 16, 18, 20 and 22 are allowed.**

Claim 1 is limited to "a subscriber circuit." This claim is currently amended and, as such, overcomes the rejection under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, made in the Non-Final Office Action filed 26 January 2006. The claim as amended also overcomes the prior art of record for at least the reasons set forth below.

Cotreay discloses a double duty capacitor circuit and method. Figure 4 depicts a group of switches 50, 52, 54 and 56 that correspond to "a switching circuit group" as recited; a SLIC 32 that corresponds to the "feeding circuit" as recited; and a ring trip detector that corresponds to the "level converter" as recited. The "signal output circuit," "wave filter," "signal monitor," and "control circuit" as recited respectively read on the switches 58 and 60 and resistors RA and RB; the capacitor 46; the comparator 38; and higher level control circuits that are not depicted but control the switches. It is the function implied that distinguishes the claim from the prior art. In particular, there is no time when both the "feeding circuit" and "level converter" are simultaneously connected during an on-hook state as set forth in lines 21-23 of the claim. Thus, claim 1 is allowable over the cited prior art.

Claims 7, 11 and 15 are limited in part to the "subscriber circuit" of claim 1, and thus, are allowable over the cited prior art for at least the same reasons.

Claim 16 is limited to "a subscriber circuit." Like claim 1, claim 16 requires both a "feeding circuit" and a "level converter" to be simultaneously connected during an on-hook state. Thus, claim 16 is allowable over the cited prior art.

Claims 18, 20 and 22 are limited in part to the "subscriber circuit" of claim 16, and thus, are allowable over the cited prior art for at least the same reasons.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Walter F. Briney III whose telephone number is 571-272-7513. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sinh Tran can be reached on 571-272-7564. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

WFB



SINH TRAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER